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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
13 FEBRUARY 1953

PARAGUAYAN NATIONAL "ELECTIONS" SCHEDULED FOR 15 FEBRUARY

National "elections" for president, the entire unicameral legislature, and district electoral boards are scheduled for Sunday, 15 February, in Paraguay. The sole presidential candidate is the incumbent Federico Chaves of the Democratico faction of the Colorado Party, which alone has controlled the country since 1949, and the only reported legislative candidates as of 16 January were those on the slate proposed by the President's party in June 1952. Both president and representatives are elected for a five-year period.

Available information does not indicate that disorders are expected on election day, but the political situation over the past three months has appeared unstable in various ways. Discontent within the president's faction of the Colorado Party has been reported, as well as Argentine influence in this political faction, among certain elements of the Army, and in various exile groups. The Communist Party, which reportedly has infiltrated the Army and the ruling political group to some extent, could be expected to exploit any disorders.

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